THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Area of Wasteland, fallow land and cultivable waste land**

1622. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of waste lands, fallow lands and culturable waste lands in our country in terms of area and percentage of total land;

(b) what is the break-up of such lands respectively;

(c) whether some plans have been made to make use of these various categories of lands;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE; MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) According to an estimate, the extent of the wastelands in the country is about 129.5 million hectares or about 39 per cent of the total land area.. The State-wies details are given in the Statement (See below).

As regards fallow lands and culturable wastelands, their extent, according to the landuse classification estimates (1987-88) carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, is as follows:-

| | | Area (million hectares) | Percshtag; of total land area |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Fallow land | 29.77 | 9.04 |
| 2. | Culturable wastelands | 15.63 | 4.75 |

(c) and (d) Land is a State subject. The responsibility of bringing lands under productive use falls within the purview of the State Governments. However, the State Governments are assisted in their efforts through the Central programmes and schemes like the Wastelands Development Pro gramme, Desert Development Pro gramme, Drought Prone Areas Pro gramme, National Watershed Deve lopment Project for Rainfed Areas, Scheme for Reclamation of Ajkaline Lands in UP., Punjab and Haryana, Scheme of Integrated Water-shed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Areas, Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, EEC assisted Projects of Reclamation of RaTinous Areas in Tfttar Pradesh and Integrated Watershed Management in Gujarat, etc.

**Statement**

*Estimate of Wastlands in India*

*(Area in Lakh Hectares)*

| States/UT | Total |
|---|---|
| AndhraPradesh . . . .114. 16 | |
| Assam .-.. 17.30 , | |

| Stetes/UT | Total |
|---|---|
| *Bihar* | 54.58 |
| Gujarat | 78.36 |
| Haryana | 24.78 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 19.58 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 15.65 |
| Karnataka | 91.65 |
| Kerala | 12-79 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 201-42 |
| Maharashtra . . . | 144.01 |
| Manipur ..... | 14. 38 |
| Meghalaya: | 19.18 |
| Nagaland . . | 13 86 |
| Orissa | 63.84 |
| Punjab ..... | 12.30 |
| Rajasthan | 199.34 |
| Sikkim]. | 2.81 |
| Tamil Nadu ..... | 44 01 |
| Tripura | 9.73 |
| Uttar pradesh .... | 80.61 |
| West Bengal . | 25.36 |
| UTs . ..... | 36.04 |
| TOTAL : ..... | 1295.74 |

N.8. Tas abjve estimate is not based on a Sfatte**&y-State- survey of all wastelands in the cdurfry.

**Reduction in rural development plan outlay**

1623. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rural Development Plan Outlay may Be pruned drastically" appeared in the Economic Times dated 1st July, 1992;

(b) whether *it* is a fact that pov-erty alleviation schemes are likely to be drastically pruned

(c) what are the reduction or pro-poSetf fgatuctidns in this vital sector; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that outlay for rural development is enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURA1* DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEE0: (a) Yes, Sir.